

GEN. 6:1-5 FEE – FI – FO – FUM

GIANTS IN THE BIBLE

Fee – Fi – Fo – Fum!! Many of us are familiar with that phrase as it comes from the story, “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Giants are a part of lore from virtually every country and people-group around the world. Guess what! It’s part of the Bible also!

There are many people out there that believe the Bible to be boring. They think that there could not be anything in its pages that could keep up with Hollywood. They could not be further from the truth. There are all sorts of intrigue in the Bible. The History Channel is always coming out with something that has a twinge of biblical truth to it. Today we will start in one of the most amazing chapters in the Bible.

The sixth chapter of Genesis is one of the most remarkable chapters in the Bible. Failure to understand this chapter will hinder your understanding of the rest of the Bible. Chapter 6 of Genesis is referenced in the New Testament several times, as we shall see. It is at this point in the Bible that Satan plays one of his biggest cards in order to thwart the prophecy of the “seed of the woman.” In order to halt the coming deliverer Satan attempts to corrupt the lineage from Adam to Jesus, making the prophecy impossible to fulfill. As we’ll see, if Satan throws a big card, God is able to trump it. This chapter will challenge the way many people think of the Bible. Verses 1 through 5 of chapter 6 actually take us back in time before bringing us back to Noah’s day.

Gen. 6:1-5

¹And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

²That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

³And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Men began to multiply on the earth way before the days of Noah. By the time Noah came on the scene the population of the earth could well have been in the millions. We can get a good date for this by looking at verse three where God states that His spirit would not always strive with man. To understand this verse we must see that the word *man* is *adawm* in the Hebrew. Adawm here speaks of the definite article, which means that the sentence is speaking specifically of Adam and not necessarily mankind, although eventually this would affect all of mankind. Therefore when verse 3 says that his days will be 120 years, God isn't giving Noah 120 years to build the ark, He's giving Adam 120 years to live. This pinpoints the place in time that the wickedness and the giants spoken of in verses 4 and 5 come on the scene. Adam lived to be 930 years old, as is stated in Gen. 5:5. God uttered this prophecy 120 years before Adam died. This means that the fallen angels left their first estate in the year 810 of creation. We'll see later that it didn't take Noah 120 years to build the ark. For now though there are greater truths we have to deal with. This calculation also puts us in the lifetime of Jared, which also confirms what is said in extra-biblical sources.

That brings me to another point. There may be some of you that are uncomfortable with me quoting extra-biblical sources, especially when it comes to ancient books. However, I would like you consider a few things. First of all, no one baulks when Josephus, the first century Jewish historian is quoted. No one bats an eye when the early church fathers are quoted. People don't gasp when secular history is quoted and it affirms the Bible. I ask you to think of me using the books of Enoch, Jasher and Jubilees in the same light. Enoch and Jasher are directly quoted in the Bible.

Enoch is listed in Hebrews chapter 11 as a man of faith – a prophet. He is referenced in Jude 1:14. Enoch is also directly quoted over 20 times in Matthew, Luke, Hebrews, by John, Paul and Peter.

“There are well over fifty references in the scriptures to just over twenty non-canonical source texts used by Biblical authors that are lost to history. These are non-biblical sources that the writers of scripture *actually mention* as being sources as being sources of information for their writing of scripture.”

Brian Godawa

Noted scholar James Charlesworth lists a few of them in his examination of lost writings related to the Bible.

- The Book of the Wars of Yahweh (Num. 21:14)
- The Book of Jasher (Josh. 10:13, 2 Sam. 1:18)
- The Book of the Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41)
- The Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel (1 Kings 14:19, 2 Chr. 33:18)
- The Book of the Annals of the kings of Judah (1 Kgs. 14:29, 15:7)
- The Annals of Samuel the Seer (1 Chr. 29:29)

- The History of Nathan the Prophet (2 Chr. 9:29)
- The Annals of Shemaiah the Prophet and Iddo the Seer (2 Chr. 12:15)
- The Annals of Jehu, Son of Hanani (2 Chr. 20:34)
- The Annals of Hozai (2 Chr. 33:18)

And there are more...

In most ancient cultures of the world there are stories of advanced beings coming to earth; mingling with men, sharing technology, and taking women. In the Greek pantheon of gods, the gods themselves came down and took mortal women as their wives producing demigods: beings that were half-human/ half god. These stories as most legends, are rooted in ancient truths. This mythology originated on the Greek island of Crete. Why is that significant? IT is significant because the Bible tells us that the Philistines came from Capthor. (Dt. 2:23; Amos 9:7) Capthor was known as part of the Nile Delta AND the Greek island of *Crete!* Who is the most famous Philistine? (Goliath – he also had 5 brothers) The root of all of these stories is the Biblical one contained in Genesis 6. Look more closely at verses 2 and 4.

Genesis 6:2 (KJV)

²That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Genesis 6:4 (KJV)

⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

There are some phrases here that we must define. “Daughters of men” is not a problem. Everyone agrees that this refers to mortal

women. However the phrase, “sons of God” is disputed. In Hebrew this phrase is *bene HaElohim*. In the Old Testament it refers exclusively to angels. (1) Here are examples from Job.

Job 1:6 (KJV)

⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 2:1 (KJV)

¹Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 38:7 (KJV)

⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Here are three examples of the use of the phrase sons of God in the Old Testament. As you can see, they all refer to angels, not men. We can also look at the New Testament for insight.

Matthew 24:37-39 (KJV)

³⁷But as the days of Noah *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Here in Matthew, Jesus tells us that His coming will slip up on many just as the flood did despite the warnings that were given. This tells us that Jesus believed that the flood was an actual event. Jude wrote of fallen angels and their sin:

Jude 1:6-7 (KJV)

⁶And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

⁷Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude speaks of fallen angels having left their first estate and going after strange flesh. This is tied in with Sodom and Gomorrha making the context one of sexual perversion. In verse 14 we see that Jude quoted the book of Enoch, which has much to say of fallen angels.

Jude 1:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Peter wrote of the angels and tied it directly to the days of the flood:

2 Peter 2:4-9 (KJV)

⁴For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

⁵And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

⁶And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes

condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

⁷And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

⁸(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

⁹The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Peter said essentially the same thing that Jude did but ties it directly to Noah. Peter is quoting the book of Enoch. Now look at verse 4 of Genesis 6 again:

Genesis 6:4 (KJV)

⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

Verse 4 states that there were giants in the earth in those days. The question as to where they came from is answered next. It seems that the sons of God, (fallen angels) came down and took wives, (women, the Hebrew indicates that they were taken by force) and had children that were giant in stature. They also became known as mighty men of renown, they were famous or legendary. Josephus tells us that these giants were what the Greeks referred to as the ***Titans***. Apparently this union brought forth some sort of hybrids that were larger than a normal man. In verse 4 it is said that there were actually 2 eruptions of fallen angels that brought about giant offspring with the use of the phrase, "and also after that." The word which is translated ***giant*** is ***nephilim***. In Hebrew it means "fallen ones." This term probably refers to their parentage. We also see that after the flood there were giants in the land of Canaan when the Israelites came into the land. I believe this bad DNA was

brought through the flood by the wives of Ham and possibly Japheth. We will deal with this at a later time.

Post-Flood Giants

Numbers 13:31-33 (KJV)

³¹But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.

³²And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

³³And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Does the name Goliath ring a bell? A lesser known, but much larger figure was Og of Bashan.

Deuteronomy 3:11 (KJV)

¹¹For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead *was* a bedstead of iron; *is* it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits *was* the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

As we can see, giants were a reality in the Old Testament. The post-flood giants were an attempt to keep Israel and in turn the Messiah out of the Promised Land.

Imagine if a large group of people was found today in some remote place. Their architecture would be on a larger scale, they would have to consume much more food, and they would certainly be frightening to see. If these stories are true then we should be able to see evidence of them. In Bashan, there are the ruins of cities that are of such a great scale that only a giant people could live there in

a practical sense. There are even newspaper articles of giants unearthed here in America. The native Americans were familiar with them.

These giants became legend and eventually were turned into mythological beings. This is what is meant by the statement, “they became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” By the time we get to the dispersion at Babel, and languages as well as different dialects come about, these stories become lore, mythology, and even theology. Once again this is why we see stories like these from the Greeks to the Inca in Peru.

So far we have dealt with the belief that the “sons of God” are fallen angels. There is an alternative view to these scriptures.

As we have already seen, the term “sons of God” always refers to angels elsewhere in the Old Testament. Secondly, there is no reason to believe that the “daughters of men” were confined to the line of Cain. If the men of Seth’s line were so *godly*, why did they marry such bad women? Third, neither of these views adequately explains how the *Nephilim* came to be. We have no record of either polygamy or unequally yoked marriages producing giants, or mighty men of renown. Lastly, neither of these views account for the New Testament’s teaching of fallen angels and demonic powers:

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

2 Peter 2:4-5 (KJV)

⁴For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

⁵And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Jude 1:6-7 (KJV)

⁶And the angels which kept not their *first estate*, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

⁷Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The main objections that have historically come against the fallen angel view are:

- (1)The fallen angel view is just too hard to swallow.
- (2)The New Testament states that angels are not given in marriage.
- (3)Angels are spirit beings, and therefore cannot procreate with mortal women.

The first objection doesn't have any Biblical grounds. As Bible-believing Christians we must allow for the supernatural. This (the supernatural) after all, is a realm of reality. To object to this is to object to the idea of a Biblical god. As for the second objection, let's look at the verse in context.

Matthew 22:23-30 (KJV)

²³The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

²⁴Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

²⁵Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

²⁶Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

²⁷And last of all the woman died also.

²⁸Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

The context here is one of marriage. The Sadducees don't believe in the resurrection. The context of the entire exchange is that in the resurrection no one will be married. There will be no need for procreation. The angels simply don't marry. There is no need for them to procreate. Furthermore, angels are always spoken of in the masculine sense. There are no female angels. Therefore, they don't marry.

As for the third objection, that the angels are spirit-beings and therefore can't procreate with mortals is addressed in the New Testament.

Jude 1:6 (KJV)

⁶And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

The nature of their fall is stated here. They *kept not their first estate*.

The Greek word for estate is *oiketerion*. This word occurs only one other time in 2 Corinthians 5:2 where it speaks of our resurrection bodies. Therefore they left their spiritual bodies and took on human bodies. This allowed them to procreate with mortal women, with the offspring of this union being giants that would eventually become men of myth and legend.

Our present world is like the one we read about in Genesis 6 in more ways than you might imagine.

There are many out there that go around oblivious to God's coming judgment. They live with the philosophy of eat, drink and be merry. That's what happened in Noah's day. Then it started raining. We have all sorts of warning signs today:

- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- War
- Islamic unrest in the Middle East

Like the old song, "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark." We have ample warning just as they did. God is long suffering. He is calling today for people to follow Him.